

optical means for causing the plurality of independently modulated beams of light emitted from said light source means to be imaged into a linear shape ⁰ling in a main scanning direction on a deflecting surface of said deflecting element; and

an optical element for causing the plurality of beams of light deflected by said deflecting element to be imaged into a spot-like shape on a surface to be scanned, said optical element being comprised of plural lens surfaces, a curvature of which in a sub scanning direction being continuously varied from the on-axis toward the off-axis in an effective portion of the lens. ✓

REMARKS

This Preliminary Amendment is filed in response to the Examiner's telephone call of June 18, 1997, imposing an oral election of species and restriction requirement in the above-identified application. Attempts to contact the Examiner by telephone have not been successful.

In response to the election of species, Applicant elects Species A, Figures 4 through 23, directed to a scanning optical apparatus having a single lens imaging element. Claims 1 to 24 and new Claim 37 read on the elected species. The election is made without traverse.

In response to the restriction requirement, Applicant elects the Group III claims, namely Claims 13 to 24, directed to a scanning optical apparatus whose lens surface shapes are not necessarily specified and having multiple light sources. The election of the Group III claims is made with traverse, pending the Examiner's explication of the reasons for requiring restriction.

It is further submitted that new Claim 37 reads on the elected group.

It is believed that Claim 37 is generic to both Species A and Species B (i.e., Figures 24 to 27, directed to scanning optical apparatuses having a two-lens imaging element). Accordingly, upon the indication of allowable subject matter in Claim 37, it is respectfully requested for the Examiner also to examine claims directed to Species B.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our California office by telephone at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below listed address.

Respectfully submitted,


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